

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10943

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS:ENRG, EEWT, UR
SUBJECT: REPORTED SOVIET REACTION TO CIA ENERGY FORECAST

1. INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE (MAY 9) RAN ARTICLE ON BUSINESS PAGE CAPTIONED "RUSSIA DISPUTES CIA ON ENERGY FORECAST." ARTICLE QUOTED NIKOLAI INOZEMTSEV, DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF THE WORLD ECONOMY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (IMEMO), AS SAYING "WE ARE GOING TO EXPORT OIL IN THE MID-80'S AND WE ARE GOING TO EXPORT IN RATHER SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES." THE TRIBUNE STORY GIVES NO INDICATION WHEN AND WHERE INOZEMTSEV MADE THE STATEMENT.

2. WHILE WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO CONTACT INOZEMTSEV ABOUT THE REPORT, WE HAVE SPOKEN WITH IMEMO DEPUTY DIRECTOR MARTYNOV AND DEPUTY SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY YAKUBOVSKIY ABOUT THE REPORT. BOTH CLAIMED NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE STATEMENT, AND YAKUBOVSKIY ARGUED THAT IF ANYONE HAD ADDRESSED THE SUBJECT, IT WAS PROBABLY INOZEMTSEV'S NAMESAKE, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF GOSPLAN. NEITHER MARTYNOV NOR YAKUBOVSKIY WERE THEMSELVES PREPARED TO COMMENT ON CONTINUED PROSPECTS FOR SOVIET OIL EXPORTS AFTER 1980.

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3. WE ALSO DISCUSSED THE TRIBUNE ARTICLE WITH A GOSPLAN OFFICIAL, N.L. DVORETS, WHO DISCLAIMED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF ALLEGED INOZEMTSEV STATEMENT. DVORETS, HOWEVER, SAID THAT CIA HAD DONE THE SOVIET UNION A FAVOR BY CALLING ITS ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEM. HE NOTED THAT SOVIETS ARE CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING WITH WESTERN ENTERPRISES ABOUT SALES

OF TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT WHICH HE SAID WOULD SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE OIL RECOVERY AND EXPLORATION. DVORETS CONFIRMED THAT USSR HAD NEGLECTED OIL EXPLORATION AT A PERIOD WHEN IT APPEARED TO HAVE ENOUGH SUPPLIES AT THE THEN PREVAILING (PRE-1973) PRICES.

4. ACCORDING TO DVORETS, THE GOSPLAN HAD GIVEN ITS "RESPONSE" TO THE CIA ESTIMATE IN AN INTERVIEW IN NOVOYE VREMIYA (NEW TIMES) DATED DECEMBER 23, 1977, WITH DEPUTY CHAIRMAN ARKADIY M. LALAYANTS. OUR READING OF THAT ARTICLE (ASSUME DEPARTMENT HAS A COPY), HOWEVER, IS THAT LALAYANTS WAS VERY CAUTIOUS, STATING NOTHING MORE CATEGORIC: THAN THAT SOVIET OIL PRODUCTION WOULD "WITHOUT DOUBT CONTINUE TO RISE" BUT WITHOUT ANY REFERENCE TO THE EARLY OR MID-1980'S. OTHERWISE LALAYANTS SPOKE OF DIFFICULTIES, RISING COSTS AND THE NEED FOR SERIOUS EFFORTS FOR THE MOST RATIONAL UTILIZATION OF ENERGY RESOURCES. HE PREDICTED THAT SOVIETS WOULD MEET THEIR PRESENT CONTRACTUAL COMMITMENTS FOR OIL SALES, BUT HE MENTIONED IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER THAT "OF COURSE" USSR ALSO IMPORTS OIL, PARTICULARLY FROM IRAQ, ON A "PURELY COMMERCIAL BASIS." MATLOCK

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